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President's Report, 1904-1905



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APPEAL

FOR COPIES OF HOBART PUBLICATIONS

The College Library will gratefully receive any of the older issues of Hobart publications. The need of the following is especially urgent :

CATALOGUE :—1880-81.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSOCIATE ALUMNI :—1865 and 1866.

ECHO :—Vols. XXI (Class of 1882), XXII (Class of 1883), XL (Class of 1902), XLI (Class of 1903).

HERALD :—Vol. XVI (1894-5), Nos. 1, 6, 9, 10; Vol. XXII (1900-01), No. 3.

It is earnestly desired that anyone who is in a position to do so will send the above mentioned issues (any numbers, however scattering, will be useful) to the Asst. Librarian of the College, Mr. H. C. Whedon.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, 1904-1905

TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF HOBART COLLEGE :

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Board of Trustees :

In making my annual report I wish first of all to call your attention to the gifts and benefactions of which Hobart College has been the recipient during the past year.

GIFTS

BOOK OF REMEM- BRANCE

On Commencement Day, June 15th, 1904, a handsome book of remembrance was presented to the College by the Rev. Louis C. Washburn, D.D., of Rochester, N. Y. This book contains the names of all those who contributed to the fund for the erection of Coxe Hall and is a memorial both of their devotion and generosity to Hobart and of the unflagging friendliness and labor of Dr. Washburn.

PORTRAIT OF BISHOP HOBART

Likewise on Commencement Day of the same year the College received from Mr. Lansing G. Hoskins of Seneca Falls a valuable portrait of Bishop Hobart. The portrait has been hung in Coxe Hall to the right of that of Bishop Coxe and is a highly prized addition to our College possessions.

PORTRAIT OF BISHOP COXE

In addition to the portrait of Bishop Hobart that of Bishop Arthur Cleveland Coxe has also been given to the College and naturally occupies the central position in Coxe Hall. It was presented to Hobart by the daughters of

the Bishop, Mrs. Francis Philip Nash and Mrs. Douglas Merritt. The artist, it is interesting to note, is Miss Marguerite Downing, the Bishop's grandniece. The thanks of the President in behalf of the College are once more extended to the donors for the gifts they have bestowed and for the interest they have shown in Hobart.

It has also been through the kindness of Mrs. **DECORATION** Julia Douglas Merritt, for long a generous **OF COXE** benefactress of Hobart, that during the **HALL** autumn of the past year the audience room of Coxe Hall was tinted throughout and thereby much improved and beautified. The College is indeed indebted to Mrs. Merritt for many benefits. From funds largely contributed by her the south portion of the present Library Building was erected as well as the Building formerly known as South Hall but now converted into the Chemical Laboratory. In addition to these the Chaplain's House was built by Mrs. Merritt and presented to the College. Besides these larger and more outstanding gifts the College has on various occasions received from Mrs. Merritt both timely and liberal donations in money. She was a ready contributor to the deficit fund, now in large part amassed, and has left us as a last evidence of her thoughtfulness a greatly beautified Coxe Hall. As President of the College I wish to take this opportunity of expressing in behalf of the Board of Trustees and my Colleagues of the Faculty the deep sense of gratitude we feel for all that Mrs. Merritt has done for us and to assure the members of her family of our sympathy with them in their bereavement. The memory of Mrs. Julia Douglas Merritt will ever be held in honor by us and the results of her generous benefactions will remain an abiding blessing to Hobart.

DONATIONS

Donations of money have not been lacking during the last twelve months. Mr. Charles P. **ENDOWMENT FUND** Boswell of Rochester, New York, one of our honored Trustees and always a faithful friend of Hobart, has contributed a thousand dollars to the permanent endowment fund. We hope that others may be stimulated to follow his good example, for after all it is only by the increase of this fund that Hobart can hope to enlarge her efficiency and meet the educational demands of the present day.

For the Gymnasium Fund five thousand **GYMNASIUM** dollars have been subscribed by Mrs. Charles D. Vail of Geneva, five thousand dollars by Mr. Hiram W. Sibley of Rochester, New York, five hundred dollars by Mr. Alexander L. Chew, fifty dollars by Mr. Arthur P. Rose, and one hundred dollars by Mr. Charles N. Hemiup, all of Geneva: making a total of ten thousand, six hundred and fifty dollars. The cost of the Gymnasium and Cage is estimated at about twenty-five thousand dollars, and it is hoped that the remaining fifteen thousand will be obtained during the coming year. An adequate Gymnasium is one of our most urgent needs, for even apart from its usefulness as a desirable adjunct to College athletics it is unquestionably a hygienic necessity for the life of the undergraduates. The plan we hope to realize includes not merely a room for gymnastic exercises but also a large Cage, enclosing a running track, in which the men can practice ball and maintain themselves in good physical condition during the coldest months. Those who know the severity of a

Geneva winter and who appreciate the difficulties attending out-door exercise when the Campus is covered with ice and the roads blocked with snow will understand alike the urgency of our need and the persistency with which I press for its speedy satisfaction.

**DEFICIT
FUND**

In accordance with a recommendation contained in the President's report of January, 1904, the Board of Trustees at that time empowered the President to appoint a Committee from its members to secure an adequate endowment fund for Hobart College and, pending the accomplishment of this purpose, to obtain if possible by annual subscriptions, covering a period of five years, a sufficient sum to meet the deficit of six thousand dollars which now confronts us. By virtue of the authority conferred upon him by the Board of Trustees the President appointed a representative Committee of eleven gentlemen of which Mr. Douglas Merritt of Rhinebeck, N. Y., was subsequently elected Chairman and Mr. D. J. Van Auken, of Geneva, Treasurer. The Committee has held two meetings, one in Geneva last June and the other in New York during January of this year. As a result of its deliberations it has issued a circular addressed to the Alumni and Friends of Hobart College in which are set forth both the reasons for the present deficit and the need for immediate relief. It also appended to the circular a blank form of pledge and proposed that the friends and Alumni of Hobart should guarantee the payment of a yearly sum, small or large as their means allowed, for the space of the next five years.

The President may also add here for himself that this provision for the present deficit is an affair of pressing requirement and one which, if made, will not merely prevent

the depletion of the small available funds of the College but will also give the Trustees and himself an opportunity to increase, in the near future, the permanent endowment fund. It might also be well for me to state in this connection that a yearly deficit is not the exception but the rule in American Universities and Colleges. Apart from the educational institutions endowed by the State almost all Colleges and Universities are obliged, if they are to do the work demanded of them, to exceed their income. I have just read the Treasurer's Report of a most important and flourishing educational institution whose deficit for the past year was fifty-five thousand dollars, and also of another even more important one whose deficit was thirty thousand. Such a state of affairs—almost universal as it is—is not due to bad financial management upon the part of the Administrators of the College but to circumstances over which they have no control. Gifts of Buildings for which no money for maintenance is provided by the donors, the shrinkage of interest on invested funds, the well-known failure of individual beneficence to keep pace with the growth of educational demands, the smallness of tuition fees, the absolute impossibility (everywhere acknowledged by experts) of running laboratories without financial loss, and the grim necessity of either keeping the institution fit to provide the educational facilities expected of it, or of going to the wall,—all these combined with other causes produce the deficits which Boards of Trustees and College Presidents have on their hands.

One of the unfortunate results of this state of affairs is that the President himself is obliged to devote to the collecting of monies much thought and time which might otherwise be more profitably directed to the intellectual side of education on the one hand and to a less interrupted intercourse

with his students on the other. And yet, disagreeable as the job of money-raising actually is, the President clearly recognizes that it is for him a plain and imperative duty.

Naturally enough in the discharge of this task he first appeals to the Alumni and to those who have had some affiliation, however slight, with the institution he represents. This appeal he is in process of making either by direct personal interview with those whom he can reach or indirectly through the circular of the Committee he has appointed. This circular has already brought to Geneva both numerous and gratifying responses from every part of the country and the President is glad to announce to the Trustees and Alumni of Hobart that a sum of four thousand five hundred dollars a year for five years has already been pledged. He hopes and believes that the remaining fifteen hundred dollars will shortly come to hand, and that we shall start the new financial year with heavier pockets and lighter hearts. If we do so, and I am confident we shall, it will be in great part due to the indefatigable industry and warm enthusiasm of our invaluable Treasurer, Mr. D. J. Van Auken. For months he has devoted himself heart and soul to the accumulation of this fund, and there is now every prospect, if the Alumni who have not yet been able to respond to our appeal come forward to our assistance, that his labors will be crowned with thorough-going and complete success.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS

Among other work of the year the President has been busy in the formation of Alumni Associations. His plan has been to begin at home or in the more immediate neighborhood of Geneva wherever sufficient numbers of resident Alumni warranted the prospect of a successful issue.

GENEVA In May last, an Association of some thirty-five or forty members was formed in the city of Geneva ; and the first annual dinner of the Association, at which fifty or more Alumni and Professors of the Faculty were present, followed shortly afterward.

BUFFALO This winter Associations have also been founded in Rochester and Buffalo which give
AND every promise of sound corporate life and
ROCHESTER strong individual interest in Alma Mater.

The Buffalo Association is to have a smoker in February and the Rochester Association is to follow suit in March. The object of these Associations is to bring the Hobart men of a given vicinity together, promote good fellowship, keep the members thereof in touch with the living problems and present conditions of their Alma Mater and stimulate that unity of action and that enthusiasm of feeling which will make of our many members one vital and aggressive body. In unity and loyal feeling is to be found our strength ; and the President takes this opportunity of saying to any and all of the Alumni into whose hands this report may come that he will be glad to hear from Hobart men, of whatever locality and however distant from Geneva, who deem it possible to form Alumni Associations in their neighborhood. The Alumni of the College are an indispensable factor of its life and as the Alumni of other institutions are rallying to the support of the mothers who nurtured them in science, arts and letters, so the graduates of Hobart are showing that they too are ready to do what in them lies for the blessing of Alma Mater and the furtherance of her important mission.

THE MISSION OF HOBART AND HER NEEDS

What then is the mission of Hobart and what must she have to fulfil it? The mission of Hobart, let it be distinctly understood, is that of the "Small College." We who have the administration of the College in charge have no faintest wish to see it grow into a University and the President may also say for himself that he cherishes no ambition whatever to be called Rabbi-Chancellor. The small college has a most honorable and important role to play within the expanding limits of our national system of education, and those who honestly represent the small colleges of the land and who believe in their value have too much respect for themselves as well as too much respect for the institutions they champion to make any effort in the direction of either seeming or becoming other than they are. To the cause of the "Small College" we are therefore irrevocably committed at Hobart, and a total enrollment of from two hundred and fifty to three hundred students is the limit of our heart's desire.

But though we are and mean to remain a small college we must also, if we are to survive and do efficient work, be a modern and not an ancient small college. The time has passed when a few professors, teaching all conceivable subjects and relying upon text books alone for assistance in their labor of instruction, can constitute the Faculty of a small college and equip it for its task. Modern needs demand modern methods and modern equipments. The small college of today requires a larger Faculty than the small college of yesterday as well as library and laboratory facilities together with proper dormitories and a good gymnasium. Some of these things we already have at Hobart and others we are in

process of having. The Faculty has been considerably enlarged during the past few years, but we still stand in want of a Biological Chair, a Chair of Political Economy, a Chair of Physiology and Hygiene, and a Chair of Romance Languages. We have also a fair working library of some forty-two thousand volumes, a thoroughly modern Chemical Laboratory, a Physical Laboratory which only needs an adequate electrical equipment to make it equal to our wants, and one good dormitory. These things we have ; but we also urgently require a Biological Laboratory, a Psychological Laboratory and a Gymnasium. In time, of course, it will be necessary for us to add another dormitory, but this is not at present a matter of necessity.

But why do you need all these things, some one asks? Why not teach a few subjects well and get a reputation for doing so instead of making the effort to cover a wider field? My answer is that Hobart is not a Technical School intended for the pursuit of certain specialties in education, but a small college of which an all-round college training of the modern type is expected. Hobart is besides not the only small college in the land or even in the State. She is one of a large group of small colleges with which she inevitably comes into competition and if she is to do the work of the small college she must be as well provided with the means of education as her sister institutions. In short it is simply because she is a small college that she should be fitted to do what is nowadays known as college work. She cannot for example stand apart from the college life of the day and still remain a college in the current sense of the word. Colleges are here in the educational world as physicians and lawyers are here in the professional world, and just as physicians and lawyers must perform the tasks their world demands of them so must

small colleges function efficiently as colleges in order to be colleges at all.

So much we may give in general as a reply to the question quoted above. In addition, however, to this general reply I desire, for the purpose of making our position clear, to be somewhat more specific and to enter more at length into the details of the situation. I would say then that there are three weighty reasons why the things I have mentioned as necessary for the equipment of Hobart College should be speedily obtained. And the first reason is that these things are demanded by the college ideal. That ideal asks of us that we furnish our young men with every legitimate opportunity for acquiring a fully rounded college education. Such in brief is my first reason, and it is one which furnishes me with the spur of inspiration and the goal of endeavor; but, since it may be said that fine and glorious as ideals are we cannot hope to realize them and must therefore be content with what we have or what we are, I should like to add two other reasons which cannot be so quickly brushed aside.

The first of these two reasons is that the things I have specified are demanded not merely by the College ideal but by great numbers of the prospective college students of our day. Young men come to Hobart, for example, who wish to study Biology and on learning that we have no Biological Department they go to another College. In like manner others ask for Anatomy and Physiology, and because we cannot furnish what they ask they also go elsewhere. In the language of the street we fail to get the customers because we are unable to deliver the goods. Now students are necessary even for the small college. They are necessary for purposes of income and they are also necessary in sufficient numbers to make of the college a social world of some variety and

size. Man is a social animal and desires even in the sometimes lonely precincts of the small college to exercise his social gifts. One swallow does not make a summer and eight men do not constitute a baseball nine, neither can forty or fifty or even a hundred students make college life what it ought to be. What I ask for in the way of additional equipment is therefore necessary to the college because great numbers of men who have college life in view demand the educational opportunities which such an equipment affords. To provide this equipment is therefore not merely the sentimental satisfaction of a superfluous ideal but a stern business necessity of practical existence.

A final reason why the things I have enumerated are vital and important to us is that they are not only demanded by the college ideal and the college student but are also required of us by the Technical Schools and Universities. The Technical Schools say to us not only in effect but also in precise terms : " We believe in a college education for the youth of the land, but there are hundreds and thousands of lads in our country who have not sufficient means to enable them to spend four years in college and afterwards four years more in specialization. Let therefore the four years' college course include what we of the Technical Schools teach in the first two years of our curriculum and we shall then be able to give them their diplomas at the expiration of two years more. Thus can the men who so desire it obtain both college and technical degrees in six years instead of eight." Take another example from the demand which the university makes upon the college. The university says to the college : " We wish to make it possible for medical students to complete their collegiate and medical education in seven years. We of the Medical Schools have

ascertained that students who before they come to us have enjoyed the advantages of college training do as a rule much better work than those who are without this training. Let therefore the college course comprehend such preparatory instruction in Chemistry, Biology, Anatomy and Physiology as will be equivalent to the first year's work of the Medical School and we shall then be able to present them for graduation at the close of three years. Do this and many medical students, who might be deterred from going to college for reasons of time or reasons of money, will decide to take the college course."

It is thus, I hope, abundantly evident that the needs of Hobart College, as I have outlined them, are real needs. The college ideal of the present day, the college student of the present day and the Technical Schools and Universities of the present day all demand that these real needs be met. To satisfy them is not then an affair of educational luxury but of educational necessity. It is a question of survival that confronts us. The day of the small college has indeed arrived and her place in the educational world is at last ungrudgingly acknowledged, but it does not therefore follow that every small college in the land will continue to exist. Only the small college that meets living conditions and satisfies living demands can hope to survive. Hobart certainly deserves survival, and this appeal of mine in her behalf and this detailed statement of her needs are made in the firm assurance that she is but now entering upon the brightest and most efficient days of her career. Encouraged as we are by the intelligent interest and material help of certain prominent clergymen and laymen within and without the State, blest as we are with an efficient Faculty, a united student body, a devoted Board of Trustees, and a loyal host

of Alumni we may and we do look the future in the face with hope and confidence. The events of the past year alone have lent to this confidence a special strength and to this hope an added lustre. May the promise of this year be speedily fulfilled and may Hobart, by our united efforts, soon be thoroughly equipped to fulfil her important mission.

Respectfully submitted,

LANGDON C. STEWARDSON,

President.

By vote of the Board it was directed that three thousand copies of the President's Report be printed for circulation.

It has just been announced that Mrs. Adelaide Richmond Kenny, late of Batavia, New York, has bequeathed to Hobart College the sum of five thousand dollars towards the Endowment Fund. She also left the college a second legacy of ten thousand dollars in reversion.



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TERM BILL RULES

1. All Term Bills must be paid within two weeks of the opening of each term. At the expiration of this time no student who has failed to comply with this rule will be permitted to remain in college, unless he show to the President just cause for delay of payment.

2. All students who have been granted delay of payment must discharge their indebtedness to the College before the close of the term. No student who has failed to pay the bill of one term will be permitted to begin the collegiate work of the term next following until his debt to the College is liquidated in full.

3. The Entrance Fee of Five Dollars will hereafter be placed upon the first term bill of each student entering college.

4. The Diploma Fee of Five Dollars will be collected hereafter from every candidate for a degree as a part of the second term bill of his Senior Year. Should any such candidate leave college during the term, or fail to receive his degree at Commencement, the Treasurer will, on information from the Registrar, at once return the fee.

February 7, 1905.